

Refugee Case Studies and Escape Shelter Typology

Borken Bayernkeller (Hotel and Restaurant)

8-12-2016

Meeting and interviews with refugees (needs some fact check and additions)

This meeting was arranged by high school teacher Gerhard Bott from Borken. He supervises a group of refugees living in the former restaurant and hotel 'Bayernkeller' in Borken (Hessen), Germany. On the first floor there are only single men living. And on the second floor there are two families and, in a different wing, also more single men. Altogether, there are about 30 people living in this building, mostly young men, and two families with small children.

Gerhard supervises a group of about 10 people, and also teaches them German, helps them to get jobs (practicum), and helps them with filling out papers and forms for official purposes such as applying for asylum status. Present at the meeting were Gerhard Bott, Hajo Neis (interviewer), Tomoki Furukawazono, and Frau Haeusser the houseowner representative was there for a short period of time. Then there were 10 -12 refugees, most of them single men. Mohamed was the only married man with wife and small child, who were not present, (but stayed in their apartment on the second floor). Refugees came from different countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Syria and other countries.

After some initial introductions small talk and exchange of presents, we were sitting down at a table with Tahir from Pakistan serving as a translator into English (when necessary).

My idea was to talk to all of them together but also individually. So, we started with Mohamed (last name???), who came from Afghanistan with his wife and his small daughter. They spent about eight month so far on their journey (a journey is not finished yet according to his understanding).

A) The questions we addressed roughly covered the following:

What is your name:

Where are you from:

Why did you leave your country?

Which countries did you have to cross before you reached Germany?

Where did you stay, live, and sleep on your journey?

What cities or neighborhoods in cities did you stay?

B) What happened when you arrived in Germany, where were you first staying, and how did you get to the city of Borken where you now live?

C: What is your job background and what kind of work are you engaged in now?

What kind of job did you learn in your home country?

What would you like to learn and do now in Germany/Borken?

How are you being treated: (question was not asked)

INTERVIEW 1: Mohamed (last name)

Home Country: Afghanistan

City/Area: Kundus

He left the country and his home because there was too much fighting between the Taliban and the government of Afghanistan.

The flight took him from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Persia, Turkey, Greece (by boat – no accident on boat),....

Escape started in the early winter of 2015. Went to Pakistan and stay/sleep in Taliban tent for 3 days (city/place?)

Then stayed in place with 18 people in one small room Euro 2.50/person/day.

Then 18 people continued to travel on a small pick-up truck (police is shooting at them, why?)

Then Mohamed and his family stayed for one week with his sister in Pakistan (which city).

With bus continued to border city of Urmira (Iranian Azerbaijan?). Waited for 4 days at border, sleeping on street under tree. Then went into Iran, but was caught by police and must go back (1 week in prison).

Then must pay Euro 300 for three people to transfer to Turkey (together Euro 900).

In Ankara they know a family and stayed there for 4 days. He found no

trouble in Turkey. It felt peaceful.

From here they traveled by bus to harbor city of Izmir in Turkey.

In Izmir they continue for two days with a rubber boat to Greece, with 70 people densely packed in small boat (fortunately no accident happened on boat). Cost of transfer was Euro 900 per person (with 3 people family Euro 2,700). They (probably) went to the island of Lesbos in Greece. Here he was registered and received an arrival document in Greek language and alphabet on January 3, 2016. He and his family continued by boat to Athens. From there he continued by bus rather speedily to Macedonia, where he received another arrival document on January 5 in Skopje in kyrillic letters. From Skopje they continued their escape by using a train to Serbia and also continued their travel with train to Croatia.

From there they continued rather quickly by bus and arrived in Slovenia.

And from Slovenia it did not take a lot of time to get to Austria.

From Austria they traveled to Germany and arrived in a rather big first camp ('Erstaufnahme' in federally run camp, but what location??)

From there they were sent to the town of Fritzlar in the northern State of Hesse (documented January 11, 2016 – Haddamar Weg (probably a state camp?))

After a two month stay in Fritzlar, he stayed another 2 months in the town of Spangenberg, before he arrived in the city of Borken about May of 2016. His ordeal now is about eight month long but he considers it not finished yet.

The question then is how he will continue to live and work in the town of Borken. He is a learned car mechanic and would like to continue to work in this capacity. He will do a practicum for the company 'Raiffeisen' under the supervision of Herr Joachim Wollenberg (paid work, unpaid practicum?).

CASE 2: Five people from Pakistan

1. Tahir (last name from Rawalpindi) Terrorist and religious problems
Escape: Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria Route...to Germany. Now does a practicum with the city of Borken. Wants to live in peace.
2. Nabi Ghulam (from Goita?)
3. Atif Ayes (from Gujarat)

4. 4. Ashfaqu Hussain (Peshkawar) Trouble with Taliban

5. Person 5 left early – several people joined and left and came back

More notes are needed for this group

Case 3: Ali Abanda (from city of Basra in Iraq)

Arrived September 7, 2016

Left Basra August 22, 2016

Via Iraq, Turkey, Greece, Serbia, Hungary, Vienna, Germany (?)

Left Basra and Iraq very quickly, had some bad trouble with weapon, needs more clarification...

We agreed to have a follow-up meeting in two weeks same time August 26.

My next possible meeting with Teacher Gerhard Bott for clarification and next steps would be August 15, at 6pm at the restaurant Dal Circulo.

HN